

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application. The claims have also been amended to delete improper multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination. Entry of the present amendment and favorable action on the above-identified application are earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up copy of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version With Markings Showing Changes Made

(Rev. 01/22/01)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

The specification has been amended to provide cross-referencing to the International Application.

The claims have been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) A vector comprising a recombinant DNA molecule of [any one of claims 1 to 4]claim 1.

6. (Amended) A host cell containing a vector of claim 5 or a recombinant DNA molecule of [any one of claims 1 to 4]claim 1.

7. (Amended) A method for the production of transgenic plants with altered stomata characteristics compared to wild type plants comprising the introduction of a recombinant DNA molecule of [any one of claims 1 to 4]claim 1 or the vector of claim 5.

8. (Amended) A transgenic plant cell comprising stably integrated into the genome a recombinant DNA molecule of [any one of claims 1 to 4]claim 1 or a vector of claim 5 or obtainable according to the method of claim 7, wherein the expression of the nucleic acid molecule results in an increased expression or activity of subtilisin-like serine proteases in transgenic plants compared to wild type plants.

11. (Amended) A transgenic plant cell which contains stably integrated into the genome a recombinant DNA molecule of [any one of claims 1 to 4]claim 1 or part thereof, a vector of claim 5 or obtainable according to the method of claim 7, wherein the presence, transcription and/or expression of the nucleic acid molecule or part thereof leads to reduction of the synthesis or the activity of subtilisin-like serine proteases in transgenic plants compared to wild type plants.

13. (Amended) A transgenic plant or plant tissue comprising the plants cells of claim 11 [or 12].

15. (Amended) The transgenic plant of [any one of claims 9, 10, 13 or 14]claim 9, the plant cell of [any one of claims 8, 11 or 12]claim 8, or the plant tissue of claim 9 [or 13], wherein said plant, plant cell or plant tissue is derived from a monocotyledonous or dicotyledonous plant.

17. (Amended) Harvestable parts or propagation material of plants of [any one of claims 9, 10, 13 or 14 to 16]claim 9 [comprising plant cells of claim 8 11, 12, 15 or 16].

18. (Amended) A kit comprising recombinant DNA molecule of [any one of claims 1 to 4]claim 1 or a vector of claim 5.

21. (Amended) Use of a nucleic acid molecule encoding or regulating the expression of a subtilisin-like serine protease or a nucleic acid molecule as defined in [any one of claims 1 to 4]claim 1, a recombinant DNA molecule of [any one of claims 1 to 4]claim 1, or a vector of claim 5 for the production of plants with improved fresh and dry weight, for enhancing the content of sugars and/or protein in plant leaves for the production of plants with reduced leaf temperatures or with reduced water loss and lower water consumption, for the modification (enhancement) of CO₂ uptake into and H₂O release from leaves, for sustained photosynthesis under high intensity conditions or for the improvement of disease resistance plants.